the piece is a satire on English social life and the English Constitution. It is not very deep, it abounds in crudities and at times it is a little wearisome ; but it is worth reading still as Disraeli's first political essay. In so far as his political faith in the form which it ultimately assumed was the product of temperament, its main features are already visible : on the one hand, the deep-seated popular sympathies and the essentially liberal outlook ; on the other, the instinctive aversion of a mind imbued with the historic spirit and full of an imaginative sense of the romance and mystery of life from the hard and self-sufficing dogmatism, the cramped philosophy, and somewhat repellent ideals of the school of thought which was becoming dominant in England. Needless to say, Disraeli was very far from having sounded the depths of Utilitarianism, and made no attempt to do justice to what was best in the teaching of the Benthamites ; between them and one of his romantic temper warfare was inevitable, and he struck at them instinctively. Needless also to say, the outlines of his own philosophy are not yet firmly drawn nor his views on questions of party politics consistently elaborated. No one therefore need be surprised to find the future leader of the Protectionists ridiculing the Corn. Laws, or the future founder of Imperialism ridiculing the Colonial system ; in either case quite heedless of the fact that he was aligning himself with the school which was the immediate object of his ridicule in an attack upon those who were to be his own future allies. John Bright, it is said,* greatly admired *Popanilla,* and in these vagaries of the author we may see perhaps in part the reason for his admiration.

*Popanilla* appeared with a dedication to Plumer Ward, who showed himself no niggard in his appreciation of the compliment. ' Since the days of Swift and Voltaire,' he wrote, ' I have not read anything so witty. Je riais aux Eclats and made others do so too. In my opinion it

[1] By Mr. George Russell in the *Corrihill Magazine* for January, 1907.